

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-206

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Blue Stone House
other

2. Location

street and number 518 Virginia Avenue not for publication
city, town Towson vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Tullabrack Property LLC
street and number 407 W. Pennsylvania Avenue telephone
city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21204-4229

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 70A-507
city, town Towson liber 19911 folio 113

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☒ Other MHT MIHP form BA-206

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0 0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0 0 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1 0 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-206

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Blue Stone House is located at 518 Virginia Avenue in Towson, in central Baltimore County, Maryland. The building faces west toward the road and is a three-story, six-bay by four-bay stone structure with ashlar on the west elevation and rubble on the other elevations. It has a hip roof with wide overhanging eaves covered in aluminum. There is a two-bay by one-bay ell centered on the east elevation that has a shed roof. The third story of the ell is stuccoed. The foundation of the west elevation has a concrete porch deck and steps in the two center bays, and a three-light sash in the two bays to each side. The first story has a door in the two center bays with sidelights of three lights above two panels, and a blind transom. The jambs have a large bull nose, three panels with bolection mouldings (one panel being at the transom level) and three panels on the soffit that are sunk and flat, with a large ogee and small cavetto panel mould. The sill is concrete and the lintel is wrapped in aluminum. There are two new six-over-six sash to each side, with sills and lintels wrapped in aluminum. The rest of the sash in the building are identical to this, though the first story sash are taller. The two-bay, one-story porch has plain new wood posts, new metal railing, a gable roof with asphalt shingles, and aluminum siding in the gable end. The second story has six sash, and all of them have had their sills raised and stone in-filled below. The third story has six short sash in openings that are unaltered.

The south elevation has the ell set back from the plane of the wall, with a three-story porch in the re-entrant angle that has plain posts that are mostly new, and new railings. There is a cellar entrance between the west and west-center bays that has aluminum siding, a steel door, and a shed roof with asphalt shingles. Inside the cellar entrance the south wall has a tar ghost line of a gable-roofed bay that previously covered the opening. The existing entrance bay is of new construction. There is a three-light sash with wood lintel and sill in the center and east-center bays of the foundation. The first, second, and third stories each have four new sash, with no opening in the ell. The east elevation is four bays, the two end bays having the porches, and having a metal door on the first and second stories and a window on the third. The two center bays are the projecting ell, with two windows on each story. On the north elevation the foundation has three-light sash between the west and west-center bays, and in the center and east-center bays. They have deteriorated wood lintels. There is an exterior brick chimney between the east-center and west-center bays, and four new windows on each story.

The cellar is divided by a stone center partition wall that runs east-west and has a doorway in it that appears to have been cut through at a later date. The floor is concrete and the ceiling is finished. There are fireplace buttresses on the north and south elevations, set to the west, and on the east elevation, centered on both the north half and south half. The window lintels are circular-sawn. The door into the cellar has six panels with sunken fields and steep quirked ogee and bead panel moulds. The hardware is new.

The first story has a center passage stair hall that does not extend to the rear. There is 2 1/2-inch oak flooring that runs north-south. A two-run stair ascends to the east on the north wall, with a landing on the east, and then turns to the west along the south wall. It has a plain open stringer, oak treads, square pine newels, rectangular balusters, and a moulded pine handrail. The doors and trim are all new. The front (west) door has plain trim with a cornice across the top that has a fascia above an ovolo above a small cavetto. There is a blind transom. The southwest room is one large room with a linoleum floor and splayed window jambs on the west, with new trim. The ceiling has a run plaster cove cornice that is broad and flat, with two fillets and a fascia below the cove. The ceiling is 9 feet, 9 1/4 inches high. There is no evidence of a partition wall that may have divided this space. There is a smaller room on the southeast, but the partitions here have been changed and no historic features survive. The northwest room was not accessible but has a drop ceiling, wood shelving on the walls, and carpeting.

The second story has new oak flooring, drywall on the walls, drop ceilings, all new partitions and doors, and all new trim. The stone wall is partially exposed on the south and has a one-inch board set into the wall at the height of the meeting rails, about five feet, seven inches above the floor. The north wall has a similar board, about five feet, four inches above the floor. The three west windows in the three north bays have beaded-interior-edge architrave that is mitered at the corners, and have splayed jambs. Only the walls enclosing the stair well appear old. The stairs continue up to the third story with the same details, and there is a skylight

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Name Blue Stone House
Continuation Sheet

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over the stairs.

The third story floors are mostly linoleum tile, there are drop ceilings throughout, and there are new doors. The window trim has a beaded interior edge and is mitered, and the jambs are splayed. The door trim has a wide, flat ogee, a narrow fascia, and a small ogee on the inner edge. There are slight variations in the trim of different doors, denoting various ages. The east chamber has 2 1/2-inch pine flooring that runs north/south. The partitions are mostly changed and added. No access could be found to reach the attic.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder n/a

Construction dates 1859-60

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Blue Stone House in Towson is situated on part of the estate of "Epsom" owned by Henry B. Chew (1800-1866, son of Benjamin Chew of "Cliveden," in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.) and his wife, Harriet Ridgely Chew (1802-1835, daughter of Charles Ridgely of "Hampton."). With the establishment of Towson as the county seat for Baltimore County, a map was created to determine the location of the court house. This map, dated 1853, does not show either the Blue Stone House, or Virginia Avenue. However, the rising importance of Towson helps to explain the creation of both. There was an increasing need for housing, and since Henry Chew already owned this land, he shortly responded to the economic opportunity provided him by constructing this and several other houses. In February 1860 Chew advertised some of these buildings for rent, including "the large three story blue stone mansion, on Virginia Avenue, built in such a manner as to accommodate two families; or, if immediate application be made, will be arranged for one extensive family, fashionable boarding house, or school, having openings on each floor for communication, which will be closed if rented to two separate families. This mansion is most substantially erected, will be fitted with modern improvements, hot and cold baths, &c.; balconies in front of first and second floors; has an observatory above the third story 21 1/2 feet long, from which there is a magnificent view embracing miles of the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay, Fort Carroll, &c. In all respects it will be the most desirable residence to be rented in the county, and will be ready for tenants early in the spring." Almost a year later Chew inserted another advertisement, offering for rent "the large three story stone mansion on Virginia avenue, arranged for one fashionable boarding house, or female institute, having openings on each story for communication, or to be closed if rented to two separate families. [It] has hot and cold baths, water closets, cooking ranges, &c.; a large observatory . . . ; a fine balcony in front of first and second floors, &c." (1)

This remarkable series of notices establishes several important points in the history of the building. Construction must have begun in 1859, with the building under roof by the winter. It was designed as a rental property all along, and designed to be flexible, so that it could be used for several different functions. It was also intended to be of the finest quality for the area, with a two-story porch on the front, a lantern on the roof, and modern amenities such as hot water baths and water closets. Chew followed through on his intentions, though at this time we do not know who may have rented the building. It was presumably used as two dwellings, since the 1891 Sanborn map shows it this way, with a partition wall down the center. Chew constructed several rental properties along Virginia Avenue, and gave the name Chewville to the area. Henry Chew died in 1866 and the following year his children divided his property among themselves. His son Samuel, who had moved back to "Cliveden," received the Blue Stone House among other property. After his death in 1887 his Towson property passed to his wife, Mary Johnson Brown Chew, for life, and then to his children. In his will he stated: "I urgently advise my dear wife to sell my Maryland property whenever she can get what shall seem to her a sufficient price there for . . ." Either she could not get that price, or did not wish to sell, for it remained in the family until 1943. Samuel and Mary Chew's daughter, Ann Sophia Penn Chew Grason, wife of William Grason, reportedly lived here at some time. (2)

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Name Blue Stone House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

According to the Sanborn maps, the lantern was removed between 1922 and 1929, and a carriage house behind the building was converted to two automobile garages. A local history states that the lantern was removed when the building was converted to apartments. The Sanborn map shows the conversion some time between 1929 and 1955, and it would seem that perhaps the new owner converted the building, but that is probably not the case. The changes included removing the front porches, making the first and second story windows shorter, replacing the two front doors with a single door with sidelights, removing all of the fireplaces, and removing the center partition wall and two stairways and putting in a central stairway. This last change is suggestive. The weight of the lantern was likely carried in great part by the center wall, so removing the wall to reconfigure the interior probably meant removing the lantern. In converting the two front doors to a single one, the outer door jambs for each could be retained and the inner ones removed. The jamb soffits were incomplete because there was a space between the two doors where the partition wall was, so they had to be replaced with a new soffit. Hence, it does not match the jambs. The Sanborn map probably reflects the easily discernable exterior change of the removal of the lantern, while the interior changes were overlooked in 1929. The details of the existing stairway are typical of 1920s work, not of work after 1943. Thus, it was probably the Chews who converted the building to apartments in the 1920s, removing all the distinctive features of the building as it was converted for a lesser clientele. The Blue Stone House was purchased by Edward and Clara Ehman, and probably continued as a residential building until its current owner converted it to offices. (3)

- (1) □ Robert L. Chew, *Genealogy of the Chew Family*. (Woodbury, N.J.: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1982), p. 278. *Baltimore County Advocate*, 18 February 1860, p. 2, col. 7. *Baltimore County Advocate*, 26 January 1861, p. 3, col. 4. Susan M. Cook and Wayne L. Nield, II, "Blue Stone House," BA-206, *Maryland Inventory of Historic Places*, Maryland Historical Trust, 1978.
- (2) □ Sanborn-Perris Map Co. "Towsontown, Maryland." (Chicago, 1891), pl. 1. *Baltimore County Land Records*, JHL 54-267. Samuel Chew Estate, Will, *Baltimore County Register of Wills*, TP 8-106. *Baltimore County Land Records*, RJS 1310-1.] [Edwin K. Gontrum, ed. *Sidelights on the History of Baltimore County*. (Towson, 1966), p. 11.
- (3) □ Sanborn Maps, 1922, sheet 10; 1929, sheet 6; 1929-55, sheet 6. Gontrum, pp. 11-12. *Baltimore County Land Records*, 19911-113.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-206

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10,878 sq ft

Acreage of historical setting 10,878 sq ft

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the original lot lines, which contain the only historic structure.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short

organization

date

5/31/05

street and number 610 Regester Avenue

telephone

410-377-4953

city or town Baltimore

state MD

zip code 21212

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

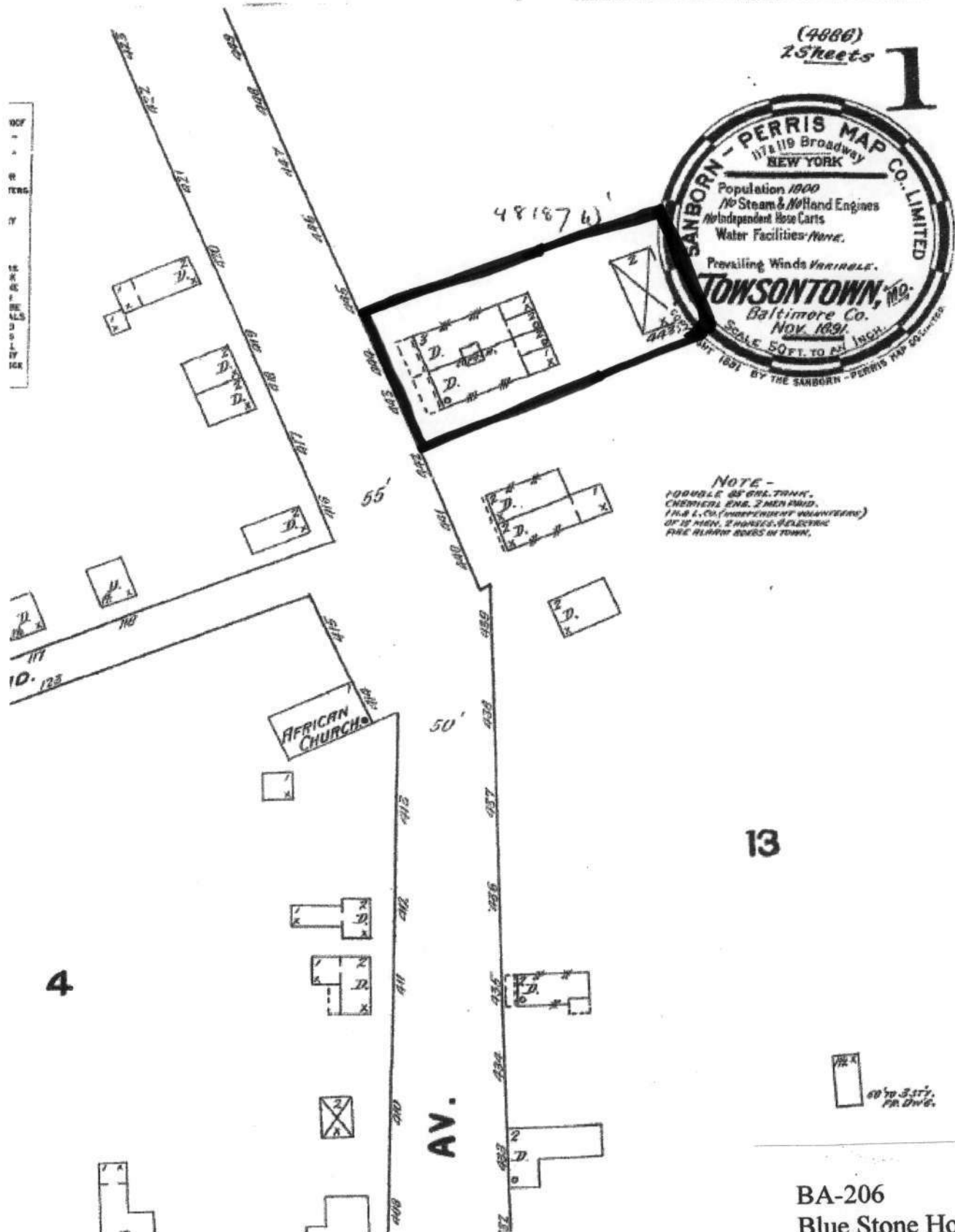
Inventory No. BA-206

Name Blue Stone House

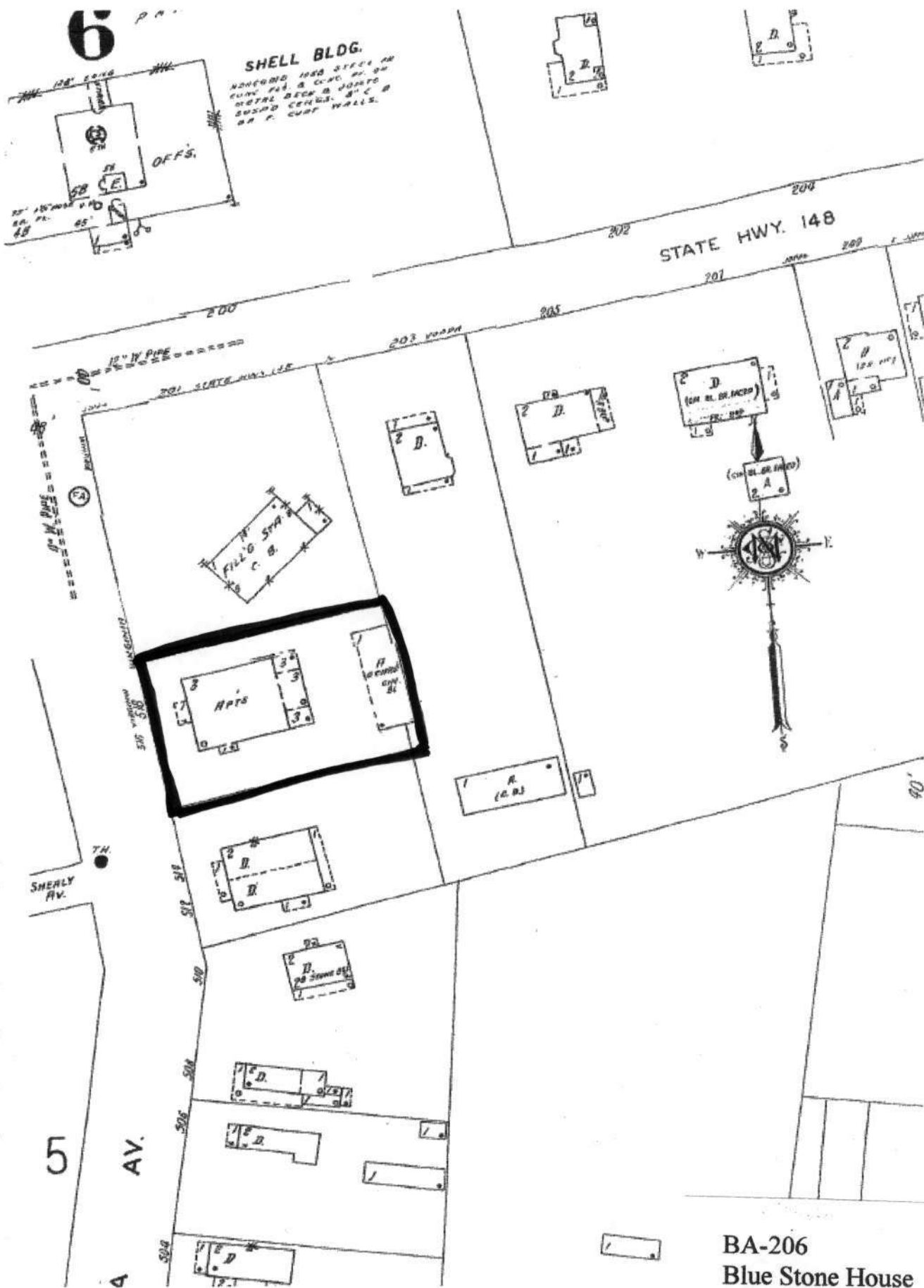
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

See footnotes

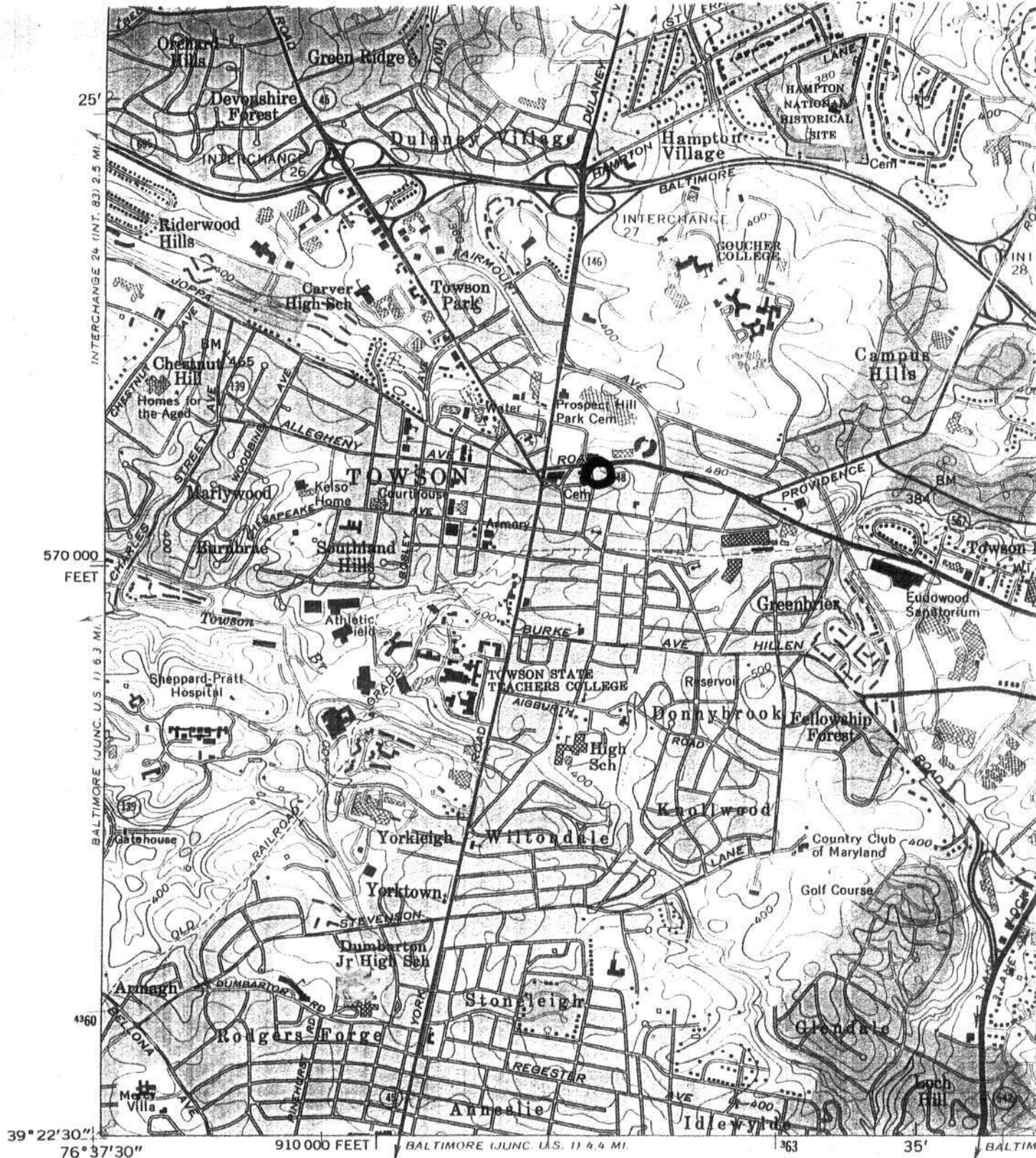


BA-206
Blue Stone House
518 Virginia Avenue
Sanborn Map, 1891



BA-206
Blue Stone House
518 Virginia Avenue
Sanborn Map, 1929-55

1929-55



Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information

BA-206
Blue Stone House
518 Virginia Avenue
Towson Quad

1 BALTIMORE WEST
 5662 / SW



BA-206
Blue Stone House
518 Virginia Ave
Balto. Co, MD
Ken Short
March 2005
MD SHPO
WBS ekus
1/2



BA-206

Blue Stone House

518 Virginia Ave, Towson

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

March 2005

MD SHPO

S & E elev

2/2

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chew House or "Blue Stone House"

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

518 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Josef L. Gehring

Telephone #: (301) 828-7222

STREET & NUMBER

518 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse (New annex)

Liber #: 4784

Folio #: 269

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-206

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE Jan., 1978

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building once known as the Chew House and designated the "blue stone house" by a 1925 plat and family tradition, is located at 518 Virginia Avenue near Joppa Road. It was built and owned (until 1943) by the Chew family prominent in both Towson and Philadelphia. The building is three stories with a hipped roof (until recently it had a bracketed cornice as evidenced by a photo on p. 24 of the Hahn and Behm book) and is Italianate in appearance. The house was originally T shaped in plan. The main block is 6 bays wide and 4 deep and the east wing is 2 bays wide and is flanked by covered wooden porches on either side that extend from the ground to the third floor and have entrances on each floor. The layout of the building is that of a central plan as obvious from the central location of the front door. The fenestration is regular on the street facade and slightly more irregularly spaced on the sides. All the windows are the 6/6 sash type with inset wooden lintels. That the windows once had shutters is evidenced by remains of shutterlocks on the north elevation.

The street facade is of a regular ashlar construction and the corners appear to be quoined. This facade is the only one on which any real attempt at coursing is made. There is a one bay cement entrance porch with a single story portico, both of which have been altered. The doorway is slightly recessed. The door is a window door bordered by 3 sidelights on either side. The same wood paneling that lines the recessed doorway is also present on the door under the sidelights. Apparently all the second floor windows have been altered and shortened in height.

The north elevation contains an altered brick chimney centered between the four windows.

Presently, the top floor of the east facade of the building is stuccoed. Also, upon analysis, the porches flanking this wing of the house are estimated to be late 19th to early 20th century. The one story red roof lines on both sides of the building where the porches are located indicate that once roofed sheds were there.

The south elevation contains an interior chimney centered between the four windows. There is also a ground level small porch-like enclosure of apparent recent construction leading to the cellar. The base of this entrance, however, would appear to be original as it is constructed of the same stone as the rest of the house.

Although further access to the interior could not be obtained a centrally located stairs was observed that leads to a sky light. This sky light replaced a cupola about 25 years ago.

There is presently a cement garage located on the site of a previous outbuilding shown on a 1877 map.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chew or "blue stone" house is significant to Towson for several reasons. It is believed to have been built between 1853 and 1861 as neither it nor Virginia Avenue appear on the plat of Towson dated December 1853 to be used for the donation of land for a courthouse. It does, however, turn up in a newspaper ad for sale in March 1861.

As stated in the description, this house is Italianate in appearance. The Italianate was a popular style in Towson during the 19th century and over a dozen are known to have existed but less than half of these remain. This house and the county jail are the only remaining stone Italianate buildings in the area. Regardless of style, the Chew house is also one of the few extant houses in Towson constructed of local stone; something which was relatively common as can be surmised from old photographs and the 1898 color-coded atlas.

In addition, the house can be regarded as a part of the overall chain of land ownership and development of the area which started with ^{the} Ridgely family of Hampton (relatives of the Chews) in the 18th century. The division of the Ridgely estate in 1832 in which part of this land came into Chew ownership lead to eventual southward growth and development. Most importantly the buildings involved become visual documents of this development, especially as it relates to America's architectural styles and taste. For example, there is Hampton, built in the late Georgian style; Epsom, with its Federal or Greek Revival portico addition; the Blue stone house or 518 Virginia Avenue in the Italianate style; the Red stone house or 512/14 Virginia Avenue which exhibits features of the Gothic revival; and lastly the frame dwellings of "Chewville". The name "Chewville" was documented by an 1861 newspaper ad and undoubtedly refers to the Chew family's land ownership especially in the vicinity of what is now Virginia Avenue and Joppa Road as evidenced by the 1853, 1877, and 1898 maps. These holdings also included the Epsom estate which has since become Goucher College.

Located in an area which has since seen the influx of modern high rises and commercialism, the Chew house stands as an important link with Towson's heritage and lifestyles of the mid-late nineteenth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCESBaltimore County American, March 1, 1861

Bromley. Atlas of 1898

Gontrum, Edwin K., ed. Sidelights on the History of Baltimore County, Towson, md:

Edwin Gontrum, 1966, pp. 11-12.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning for the same on the easternmost side of Virginia Avenue 60 feet wide and at the end of the third line of the land which by a deed dated October 29, 1919 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber W.P.C. No. 518 folio 76, was conveyed by Harriet R. Chew to Wilson W. Watson and running thence binding on the easternmost side of Virginia Avenue North 3 degrees 51 minutes east 231.65 feet to the center of Joppa Road as the same is now opened and constructed, thence binding on the center of Joppa

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Cook

Student/Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Goucher College

STREET & NUMBER

Dulany Valley Road

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

DATE

January 19, 1978

TELEPHONE

(301) 825-3300

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Item Number 9 -- continued

Hahn, H. George and Carl Behm III. A Pictorial History of a Maryland Town: Towson, Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Co., 1977, pp. 24-26.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 1877

Plat of Towson Town, December 1853

Wilson, Hilda N., ed. Then...Now: Towson Bicentennial 1768-1968, Towson, Md: Junior Press, 1968.

Item Number 10 -- continued

Road south 87 degrees 29 minutes east 133.5 feet to the westernmost side of an alley heretofore laid out 12 feet wide; thence binding on the westernmost side of said alley with the use in common with others having a similar right thereto south 1 degree 48 minutes west 229 feet to the end of the second line of the land conveyed as aforesaid by Harriet R. Chew to Wilson W. Watson and thence binding on the third line of the last mentioned land north 88 degrees 32 minutes west 141.7 feet to the place of the beginning. (Liber 4784 folio 269) This does not include the land leased by Edward Ehman and wife to Esso on Fe. 20, 1951 as recorded in Baltimore County Land Records Liber 1961 folio 514.

Both of these stone buildings should be seen as part of a chain of land ownership and development by two important Baltimore County families. It began with the Ridgelys at Hampton in the 18th century, whose land was divided in 1832, with a large portion going to their relatives, the Chews. The Chew estate was called "Epsom" and is the present site of the Goucher College campus. The land on which these houses stand was part of the Chew holdings. They were built by the Chews and constituted part of what was called "Chewville" in one 1861 advertisement. The buildings associated with this evolution document the full gamut of major architectural styles in America. The Georgian is well represented by Hampton, early sketches show that Epsom had a large Greek Revival portico, and in these two buildings one finds good examples of the Gothic Revival and Italianate.

Although they differ in color, both of these houses are built of local stone. For obvious reasons # 512-14 is known as the "red stone house" and for less obvious reasons its neighbor at 518 the "blue stone." Early deeds confirm the use of these terms.

The red stone house is a duplex which is basically a deeply corniced gable-end structure typical of the Greek Revival. Applied to it are somewhat oversized scroll work decorations typical of Gothic Revival patternbooks.

The blue stone is a large three-story residence resting on a high basement, and even without its recently removed brackets, it remains one of Towson's better Italianate structures. Although it was designed to be a residence, the large and well equipped building "is admirably adapted for a female seminary or boarding house," as was pointed out in an 1861 real estate advertisement.

B. C. American, Mar.1, 1861,
p.1.

TITLE SEARCH for CHEW HOUSE - BLUE STONE

Liber 4784, Folio 269 June 2, 1967

Grantor: Clara M. Ehman, widow

Grantee: Josef L. Gehring & wife

"Beginning...Easternmost side of Virginia Ave. 60' wide...East
231.65'...East 133.5'...West 229'...West 141.7'..."

Liber 1310, Folio 1 August 9, 1943

Grantor: The Pennsylvania Co., et. al.

Grantee: Edward R. Ehman & wife

Liber 54, Folio 267 June 18, 1867

Grantor: Charles R. Chew et. al.

Grantee: Samuel Chew

Samuel Chew died leaving property to widow Mary Johnson Brown Chew
through Will 8/106, 1887

Mary J. B. Chew died leaving property to surviving children, 1927

Anne S. P. Alston acquired undivided 1/5, having died 1931, passing
the undivided 1/5 interest to neice Mary Evelyn Stephenson, nephew David
Sands Brown Chew and sister Elizabeth B. Chew.

David S. B. Chew died 1934, and in Will 36/548 devised to his wife
Bertha E. Chew and Bank of North America and Trust with power of sale.
Merger- with The Pennsylvania Co. Bertha E. Chew died 1937 leaving
The Pennsylvania Co. sole trustee.

Baltimore County Advocate February 11, 1860

AD: Sale for two Red Stone Dwellings and a Blue Stone Mansion
Virginia Ave. "ready for immediate occupation."
Blue Stone - can accomodate two families, a school, or boarding house
Will be fitted with modern improvements.
Apply to Henry B. Chew

0302065404

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN Towson VICINITY Dist. IX STREET NO. 518 Virginia Ave. S. of Joppa Road ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-207 206 2. NAME Chew House DATE OR PERIOD about 1840 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
--	---

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

A large three-story structure, once topped by a cupola, of quarried stone, numerous large windows, wide porches.

The property was acquired by Henry B. Chew from Col. Charles Ridgely of Hampton and called "Epsom." A Chapel by that name was formerly located directly opposite on Joppa Road.

Presently used as an office building.

(second HABS report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

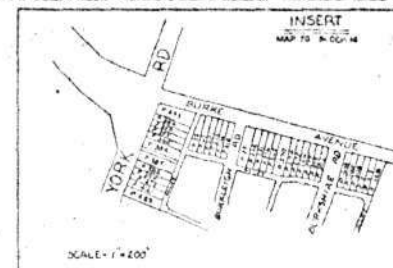
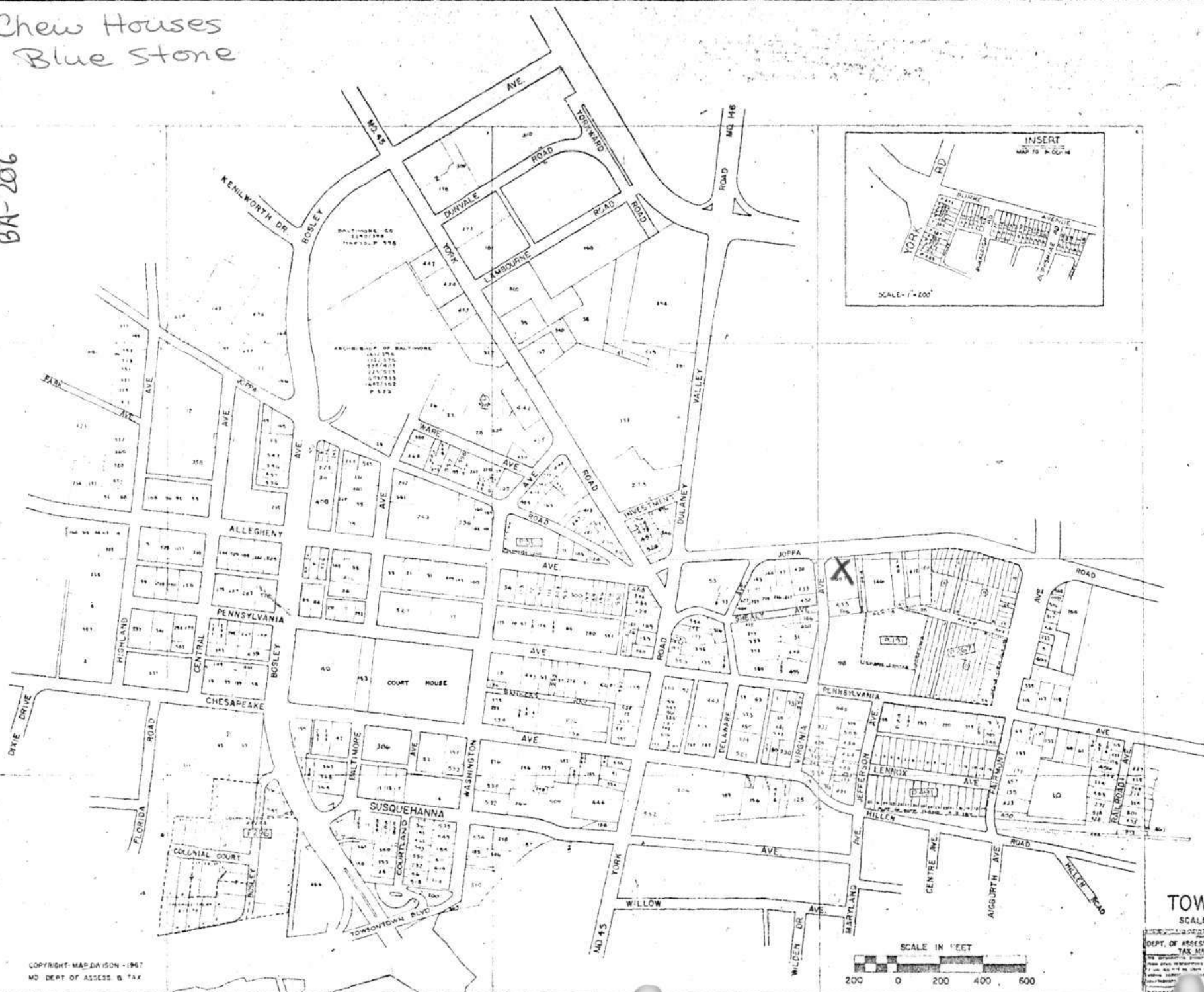
DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

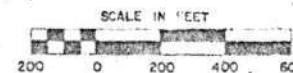
<p>1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore Co. TOWN Towson VICINITY Dist. IX STREET NO. 618 Virginia Ave. S. of Joppa Rd. ORIGINAL OWNER Col. Chas. Ridgely ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE office building WALL CONSTRUCTION stone NO. OF STORIES 3 stories</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-207206</p> <p>2. NAME Chew House (Epsom) DATE OR PERIOD 1840 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC</p> <p>A large three story structure, once topped by a cupola, of quarried stone, numerous large windows, wide porches. The property was acquired by Henry B. Chew from Col. Charles Ridgely of Hampton and called "Epsom". A Chapel by that name was formerly located directly opposite on Joppa Road.</p>			
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior</p>			
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>		<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc. Agriculture Bldg. Texas, Md.</p> <p>DATE OF RECORD March 20, 1968</p>	

Chew Houses
Blue Stone

BA-206



TOWSON
SCALE 1"=200'



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP TOWSON
MAP NO. 70A

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MD DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX



BA-206

CHEW HOUSE-BLUE STONE
S.W.

W. NIELD



BA-206

CHEW HSES
BLUE STONE
E.

W. NIELD
Sum. 78



BA-206

CHEW USES
BLUE STONE
W.

W. NIELD
SUM-78



BA-206

CHEW HSES
BLUE STONE
N. FACADE

W. NIELD
SUM-78